

Template for ISB Documentation of Stressors

A. General Information:

1. Name or Location of Example/Approach: Threats taxonomy

2. Literature/Citations Used: <http://www.conservationmeasures.org/initiatives/threats-actions-taxonomies>

Salafsky, N., et al. 2008. A standard lexicon for biodiversity conservation: unified classifications of threats and actions. *Conservation Biology* 22: 897-911.

Balmford, A., et al. 2009. Capturing the many dimensions of threat: comment on Salafsky et al. *Conservation Biology* 23: 482-487.

3. Reviewer(s): John Wiens

B. Specific Questions:

1. What stressors are considered? All

2. Are stressors categorized? If so, how? Stressors (or, more accurately, threats) are arranged in hierarchies.

3. Are the relations between stressors and management objectives modeled, and if so, how? Not explicitly, although Salafsky et al. consider a unified “taxonomy” of possible conservation actions.

4. If stressors are prioritized, describe the general approach. No prioritization. The focus on this series of publications is on standardizing the labels attached to threats (and actions), so that conservationists and managers in different parts of the world can use the same terms to describe the same things. This should enhance communication and coordination among management efforts and agencies. Balmford et al. take Salafsky et al. to task for oversimplifying by combining into a single category both the sources of threats and the mechanisms by which the threats affect the state of a conservation target. It’s also easy to get confounded by the terminological conventions: “fire suppression,” for example, is designated as a direct threat, but “lack of fire” is considered a stress.

5. How might this approach be relevant to Bay Delta? It’s important to be clear and concise when talking about stressors and their sources (threats, or whatever); however, sometimes standardization can thwart attempts to define terms in ways that are precisely relevant to the system of interest.

6. Follow up regarding additional questions/literature review/etc?